(c) if so, the amount provided for replacement of these bridges during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) There are 26 Railway Bridges in distressed condition in Karnataka as on 31.10.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir. Action to rehabilitate/rebuild these distressed bridges has been initiated.

(c) Rs. 133 lakh approximately has been provided for replacement of these bridges during 2001-2002.

Revival of SSPL

*100. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 187, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 2001, and state:

(a) Whether, in response to winding-up notice by BIFR, M/s SSPL, M/s Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., had forwarded a revival scheme, approved by its Board;

(b) Whether the same was discussed in joint meeting held by IIBI on 15th October, 2001;

(c) Whether, in the meeting, Government did not offer any comments on the proposal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by Government, in consultation with SSPL Management and IIBI, to prepare a workable scheme within a month to ensure revival of SSPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government representative, who participated in the joint meeting, did point out the various loose ends in the company's proposal.

(e) In the hearing on 30.10.2001, the BIFR has directed, *inter alia*, that IIBI would convene a joint meeting within 30 days to discuss the proposal submitted by the company. The intimation regarding the date of joint meeting has not been received from IIBI.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Filling up the post of D.G., ICAR

594. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of D.G., ICAR has been lying vacant since August last;

(b) whether there have been procedural differences within ICAR about the appointment of the DG to fill up the vacancy;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken to resolve the differences so as to fill up the vacancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) After the voluntary retirement of the previous D.G., ICAR on 14.08.2001, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was given the additional charge of the post of D.G., ICAR with effect from 15.08.2001 till 03.10.2001.

As per the procedure followed in the past recommendations of the Search Committee, duly approved by the competent authority, were processed. On receipt of the Government's decision, orders have been passed on 04.10.2001. The post of D.G., ICAR has been filled up with effect from 4th October, 2001.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

595. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expected growth of agriculture in terms of foodgrains in the current financial year based on the production estimate till date;